

Woodbury City Update

July 2020 • Volume 21, No. 6



Temporary water treatment plant now in service

The City of Woodbury's new temporary water treatment plant is now operational. The facility, located near the intersection of Valley Creek Road and Tower Drive, is treating water from four wells to meet water quality standards and guidelines for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Seven of the city's 19 wells were removed from service since 2017 due to PFAS levels that were above federal and state water quality standards and guidelines.

"Bringing four of the seven wells back into service allows the city to meet the increased demand for water during the summer months," said Jim Westerman, the city's utility manager. "The remaining three wells will remain out of service at this time."

The temporary water treatment plant, which typically takes about 18 months to two years to construct, was completed in about five months.

"In order to meet peak summer demand, it was critical the temporary treatment facility was operational as quickly as possible," Westerman explained. "We would not be operating the facility today without the work and cooperation of the State of Minnesota, 3M, the City Council, numerous city staff, our engineering consultant teams, and the construction expertise of the project contractor."

Construction on the site will continue through the summer to finalize building components and site restoration.

Water efficiency remains critical

"With the temporary water treatment facility now operational, the potential for increased irrigation restrictions

this summer is significantly reduced," Westerman said. "Thank you to all residents who made an effort to reduce their water use to eliminate the need for additional water restrictions while construction of the facility took place."

However, it is important to remember the city's lawn watering policy remains in effect. The watering rules allow lawn sprinkling on an odd/even schedule (only before noon and after 5 p.m.).

And just because the city allows watering on an odd-even schedule, doesn't mean residents and businesses need to water that often. To keep your lawn green, it only needs 1 inch of water per week, including rainfall.

Smart irrigation controllers available at a reduced rate

When irrigation is necessary, make sure you are using the most efficient technology available. WaterSense certified smart irrigation controllers are now available to homeowners at a discounted rate of \$35. These controllers connect your irrigation system to local weather forecasts through your WiFi to adjust the system before and after a rain event, and also corrects for temperatures and wind speeds. Since the city started this program in 2016, these controllers reduced water use by an average of 30,000 gallons of water per household per year (resulting in smaller water bills, too).

All irrigation controllers installed in the city in 2018 and after are required to be WaterSense certified. For details, visit woodburymn.gov/waterwise.

Primary election Aug. 11

Woodbury voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, Aug. 11, to cast ballots in the state primary election. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the city's 16 precincts.

No city offices will be on the primary ballot. However, voters will narrow the field of candidates seeking election to federal and state offices. Two City Council positions will be decided in the November general election.

Under Minnesota's primary system, voters must choose one party and vote only for candidates seeking office from that party. Ballots marked for candidates from more than one party are considered defective and will not be counted. All precincts will have federal and state candidates for the Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL), Grassroots – Legalize Cannabis, Legal Marijuana Now and Republican parties on the primary ballot.

Absentee voting

Absentee voting for the primary election began June 26 and continues through Monday, Aug. 10. An absentee ballot application can be completed online at the Minnesota Secretary of State website (mnvotes.org).

Voters may vote absentee by mail, provided there is adequate time for them to return ballots by Election Day. Once the absentee ballot application is received by the County, a ballot will be mailed to the eligible voter to complete and return via mail.

Woodbury voters who wish to vote absentee in-person may do so at the Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd Street North, in Stillwater. In-person absentee voting may also be done at in the lower level of Central Park, 8595 Central Park Place, in Woodbury between Aug. 4 and Aug. 10. Absentee voting hours at the Central Park will be:

- Tuesday, Aug. 4, through Friday, Aug. 7, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Aug. 8, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 10, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Call 651-430-6175 or visit the Washington County website (www.co.washington.mn.us) for more information.

continued page 3

continued page 3

Council Perspective

By Mayor Anne Burt

Race, equity and policing

In the wake of George Floyd's tragic death at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, we are receiving a number of inquiries from community members asking about Woodbury Public Safety Department operations. I share your desire to ensure Woodbury is a safe community for all our residents and want to share more with you about the race and equity measures the city is taking.

Demographics and hiring

First, I'd like to tell you more about the demographics of our police officers. Four percent of our police officers are non-white. This is not representative of our community demographics as a whole – just under 25 percent of our residents are non-white, according to the 2018 American Community Survey. This number falls short of our expectations and we continue to work to improve the diversity of our city staff – including police officers.

For the last five years, we have been creating strategies to recruit and hire more diverse candidates for positions across the city organization. We firmly believe that a diverse workforce creates a better spirit of community, shared ideas and increased creativity. As you can imagine, it will be harder than ever to attract black and brown candidates to wear the uniform, but we know their perspective makes a difference and improves the quality of our public service.

We hope that open and inclusive employment practices and policies can help attract and retain talented staff from all groups and help us respond appropriately to changing needs and goals in the community.

Hiring the right people

It's important that we hire the right people, especially in public safety. That's why before hiring, police officer candidates are subject to a rigorous application and vetting process which is followed by an extensive background investigation, physical examination and psychological examination.

We have a number of recruiting tools we use to attract a diverse pool of candidates for our public safety positions. Our programs and positions offer meaningful opportunities for growth in the public safety sector, including an internship program; community service officer (CSO) hirings; and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Academy. When we recruit for these positions, the job postings are sent to professional organizations that target a diverse audience like National Black Police Officers.

Our interview questions are reviewed by the Public Safety Department's Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) to ensure they speak directly to experience with race equity and cultural competency. The MAC is an engaged group of volunteers that advise the Woodbury Police Department in order to enrich the relationship between underrepresented community members and the department.

We also train those who are making hiring decisions in implicit bias.

Police credentials and training

As a result of our recruitment efforts, the officers that comprise the Woodbury Police Department are well educated; most have a bachelor's degree, and many have a master's degree. One of our sergeants earned a doctoral degree and leads citywide efforts in diversity, equity and inclusion training.

In Minnesota, police officers must complete a two-year degree and a skills program before they take an eligibility exam. The state also requires continuing educational requirements for officers to be licensed. Our department goes beyond these minimum requirements; new officers attend an academy within our department before they train in the field with an assigned mentor.

We train employees extensively in crisis intervention, mediation, de-escalation and bias. For the past several years, we have prioritized

diversity, equity and inclusion learning. Course examples include: "Knowing Your Muslim Neighbor" (2017), "Understanding Implicit Bias in Policing" (2016), "Cultural Diversity" (2018) and "Procedural Justice" (2018).

In addition, all of our officers wear body cameras while on duty, which provide for excellent training tools as well as transparency for the public.

Strategic priority: Public Safety effectiveness

Last year, we – the City Council – identified "adapt and enhance Public Safety effectiveness" as an ongoing strategic priority. As the community ages and diversifies, there is increasing, and sometimes conflicting, demand for services provided by the Public Safety Department.

Proceeding with public safety as a strategic priority, especially in light of recent events, provides the necessary research, detail and focus on these services to ensure the City Council can make informed, long-term and strategic decisions regarding not only the Public Safety Department, but the public safety of the community.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to learn more about how we operate public safety services. More information about race equity, transparency, accountability and building an inclusive community is available on these web pages:

- woodburymn.gov/policeaccountability
- woodburymn.gov/policingraceequity
- woodburymn.gov/dei

Fostering an inclusive and welcoming community that values all residents and their diversity is paramount to the city's continued success. We will continue working to ensure all of our community members feel welcome, safe and connected in the community – especially when they are interacting with our police officers.

Filing begins July 28 for City Council candidates

Filing opens Tuesday, July 28, and continues through 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, for Woodbury residents seeking election to the City Council this November. Voters will elect two Council members to four-year terms that begin in January.

Candidates may file in the Administration Department at City Hall during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The office will remain open until 5 p.m. on Aug. 11, the last day to file. The filing fee is \$40.

Persons wishing to run for City Council must be eligible to vote in Minnesota, at least 21 years of age upon assuming office, and a resident of Woodbury for at least 30 days prior to the Nov. 3 general election. Candidates also must not have filed for the same or any other office in the upcoming primary or general elections.

City Council elections are non-partisan and candidates run for their seats at large. There is no city primary election; names of all candidates filing will appear on the November general election ballot.

Woodbury's City Council consists of the mayor and four council members who each serve four-year terms. Elections are held in November of even-numbered years and terms are staggered. Andrea Date and Amy Scoggins currently hold the two City Council positions on the November ballot.

Council members are paid \$948.33 monthly or \$11,379.96 annually. For more information, call Kim Blaeser, city clerk, at 651-714-3500.

The Woodbury newsletter is published 10 times per year by the City of Woodbury and mailed to all residents and businesses. Send comments to: Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125-3330. Phone: 651-714-3500. Email: jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov.

Mayor: Anne Burt. Council Members: Andrea Date, Steve Morris, Jennifer Santini and Amy Scoggins. City Administrator: Clint Gridley. Communications Manager: Jason Egerstrom.

Don't let fires 'burn' others

Many residents enjoy relaxing around a backyard campfire, but it's important to be a good neighbor and know the rules. The most common complaint is of noxious smoke, and it is imperative to understand the ordinance before lighting a recreational fire.

Recreational fires

The city does not require residents to obtain a permit for a recreational fire, but residents must follow these guidelines or you may be asked to extinguish the fire or cited for violations:

- Recreational fires are allowed to be a maximum of 3 feet in diameter at the base. Flames should be no higher than 3 feet.
- Only natural wood may be burned. Treated or painted wood, plastic, rubber, leaves, grass and brush are NOT allowed. Yard waste should be taken to a compost site or placed at the curb for pickup by your trash hauler.
- Recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is completely extinguished.
- Fires shall not be conducted within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material. Recreational fires shall take place on the owner's property and be a minimum of 5 feet from property lines.
- A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, water barrel, or garden hose, shall be available for immediate use.



- The fire must be extinguished if it becomes a nuisance to others or if not under supervision.
- Recreational fires are not allowed on decks of multi-tenant dwellings.

By burning only clean, natural wood in your recreational fire, you greatly reduce the risk of your fire becoming a nuisance to others. It is important, Woodbury Fire Marshal Rick Current noted, to be considerate of your neighbors and remember that the smoke and smell of a recreational fire can travel a great distance.

Brush fires

Unlike recreational fires, a burning permit is required prior to having a brush fire. There is no charge for a permit. Brush fire permit forms are available on the city's website. Completed forms should be emailed to fire@woodburymn.gov. A site inspection will be conducted prior to issuance of a brush fire permit. A signed copy of the permit must be retained by the homeowner.

In addition to obtaining a permit, you must follow these guidelines:

- Brush fires are allowed to a maximum of 6 feet in diameter and are limited to daylight hours. Pieces to be burned shall not exceed 4 inches in diameter.
- Only natural wood may be burned. Burning of treated or painted wood, plastic, rubber, leaves or grass is not allowed.

In addition, all fires – recreational and brush – should not produce excessive smoke or soot, becoming a nuisance to your neighbors.

Burning bans

A burn ban may be issued by the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources or any other unit of government for various areas of the state. When a ban is issued that affects Woodbury, no burning is allowed to take place until the ban is lifted.

Recreational and brush fire guidelines can be found at woodburymn.gov, along with many other tips about fire prevention and safety. If you have questions, contact the Public Safety Department at 651-714-3600. If you observe a violation occurring, call 911.

Primary election... from page 1

Registering at the polls

Pre-registration for the primary election ends July 21. Voters who have not registered in their precinct by that date can register when they vote absentee or at the polls on Election Day.

All voters registering on Election Day must be born on or before Aug. 11, 2002, and must provide proof of residence in the precinct by presenting one of the specific documents (or combination of documents) authorized by state law. A list of the acceptable documents is available on the Minnesota Secretary of State website (mnvotes.org) or by calling 651-430-6175.

Questions about the primary election and voting precincts may be directed to City Hall, 651-714-3500. Questions about absentee balloting may be directed to Washington County Elections, 651-430-6175.

Where do I vote?

Woodbury has 16 precincts and polling sites. To find out where you vote, view the precinct map available on the Woodbury website at woodburymn.gov/elections. A precinct map and list of polling places can be accessed via links on the menu.

You also can use the "Find My Precinct" link, which will take you to the Secretary of State website's polling place finder. Enter your zip code or county name (Washington) and proceed through a series of steps to obtain your polling location.

If you do not have internet access, you may call Woodbury City Hall at 651-714-3500 or Washington County Elections at 651-430-6175 to obtain your precinct and polling site information.

Treatment plant...from page 1

Long-term water treatment solutions

The temporary water treatment facility is expected to be in operation until a long-term water treatment solution can be implemented in the next five to seven years. Funds for the long-term solution are expected to be available from the \$720 million settlement the state received from 3M in 2018. The State of Minnesota continues to study long-term treatment options for several communities in the east metro

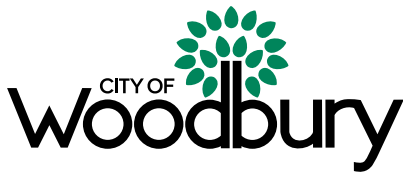
area and is expected to share its recommendations with the cities this fall.

About PFAS

The 3M Company made PFAS at its Cottage Grove facility from the late 1940s until 2002. PFAS wastes were disposed of at multiple sites in Washington County. The source of the PFAS in Woodbury's groundwater has been identified as these disposal sites.

The 2007 consent decree between the State of Minnesota and 3M is funding the design and construction of the temporary water treatment for the City of Woodbury at a total capital cost of \$11 million.

If you have questions about the city's water system and the impact of PFAS, visit woodburymn.gov/pfas or contact Public Works at 651-714-3720 or publicworks@woodburymn.gov.



8301 Valley Creek Road
Woodbury, MN 55125-3330

ECRWSS
PRST STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 1573



**Water treatment
plant in service**
Page 1



**City Council filing
begins July 28**
Page 2



**Recreational and
brush fire safety**
Page 3

Postal Patron
Woodbury, MN

'Night to Unite' postponed to Oct. 6

Night to Unite, the evening neighborhoods across the state hold gatherings to strengthen connections with neighbors and Public Safety personnel, has been postponed to Oct. 6 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Planning tips and other event information is available online at woodburymn.gov/nighttounite. Direct questions to police@woodburymn.gov or 651-714-3600.

Night to Unite is sponsored by the Minnesota Crime Prevention Association, AAA of Minnesota/Iowa and local law enforcement agencies.

Woodbury City Update

July 2020 • Volume 21, No. 6

New Carver Lake Bike Park Playground is open!

The new bike park playground in Carver Lake Park is now open!

The bike playground, located in the open field area just off the main park entrance road, has four designated areas that provide full progression of riding and learning including a bicycle playground, tot track, pump track and an advanced skills loop with technical trail features. The advanced trail loop includes dirt rollers, wooden berms, wooden technical trail features and rock gardens.

"It's exciting to have this unique mountain bike amenity in Woodbury," said Recreation Manager Reed Smidt. "It was funded entirely by a grant from the Federal Recreational Trail Program and complements the Carver Lake off-road cycling trail. It gives younger riders an opportunity to practice and learn new skills on a course designed

for them. Riders of all ages and abilities can enjoy the new bike park playground."

Park hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; parking is available near the bike park playground and in the main parking lot. Riders should familiarize themselves with the posted park safety rules located on site. Helmets are required; shin, knee and elbow pads are recommended.

Volunteers from the Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists organization, who have maintained the off-road cycling trail in Carver Lake Park since it opened in 2011, also will maintain the bike park playground.

Carver Lake Park is located at 3175 Century Avenue South in Woodbury. More information is available online at woodburymn.gov/bikepark and facebook.com/mtbcarverlake.



The new Carver Lake Bike Park Playground offers a variety of fun features for riders of all abilities.